

C O U N C I L   C O M M U N I C A T I O N

TO:     THE CITY COUNCIL  
FROM:   THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

COUNCIL MEETING DATE  
MARCH 7, 1990

SUBJECT:   REPORT ON GRAFFITI IN THE CITY OF LODI

PREPARED BY:             City Manager

RECOMMENDED ACTION:     None required. Information only.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:     At the regular City Council meeting of January 3, 1990, the City Council heard a presentation by a citizen, Mr. Arthur Price regarding the extent of graffiti in various locations throughout the City.

Since that date staff has had a number of conversations with Mr. Price concerning this topic. This item appears on this agenda for the purpose of briefing the City Council. A short video tape will be shown which will graphically illustrate the extent of this problem. Police Sergeant Frank Grenko, who is in charge of the Police Department's Gang Unit, will be in attendance to comment on graffiti and its relationship to gang activities. The Chief of Police will also be in attendance. Mr. Price has been advised that this item will be on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Peterson  
City Manager

TAP:br

2/5/90

Lodi City Council

Dear Mrs. Reemche

RECEIVED  
FEB FEB -0 11: 7: 50

ALICE H. REMCHE  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF LODI

I would like to request that  
the subject of graffiti be placed on the  
Council agenda for 2/7/90. (Clerged to 2/7/90 ac)

Arthur B. Prich

1053 Port Chelsea Circle

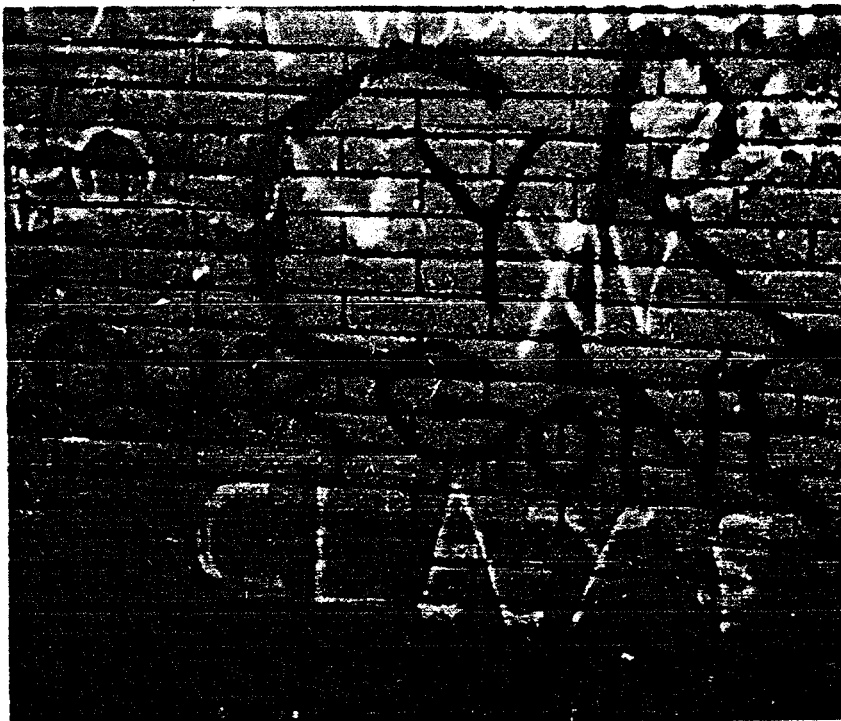
Lodi, Ca. 95240

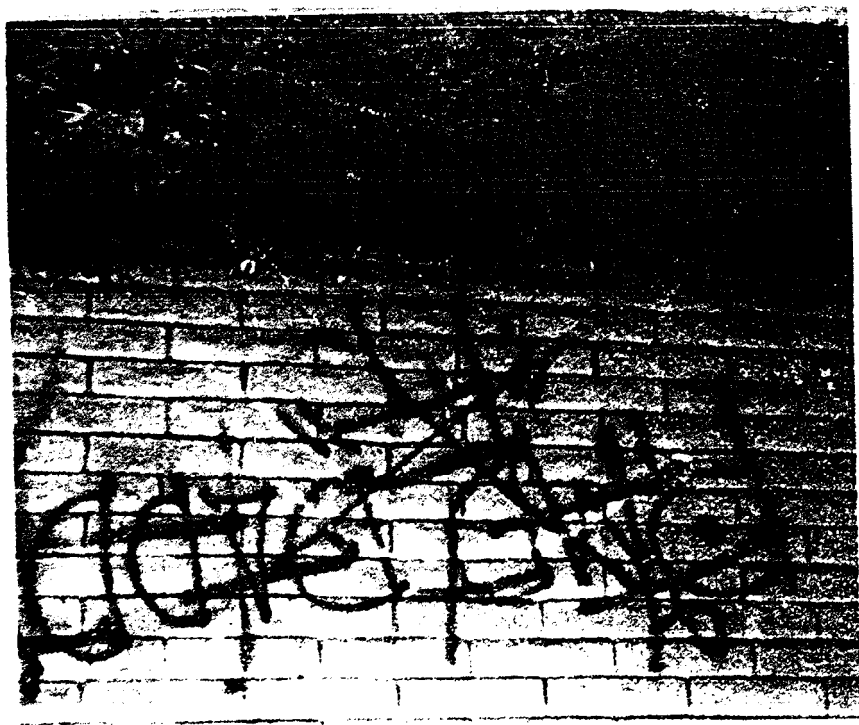
Mrs. Reimke

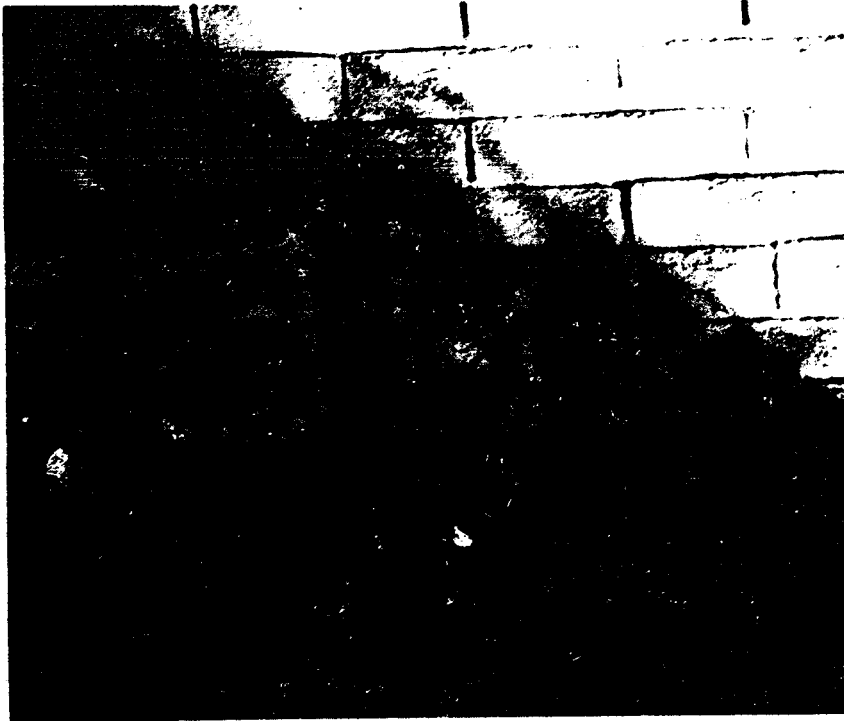
Alva - 9  
Additional info  
on graffiti. The  
CM, CA, Council, &  
Jack also have  
this info

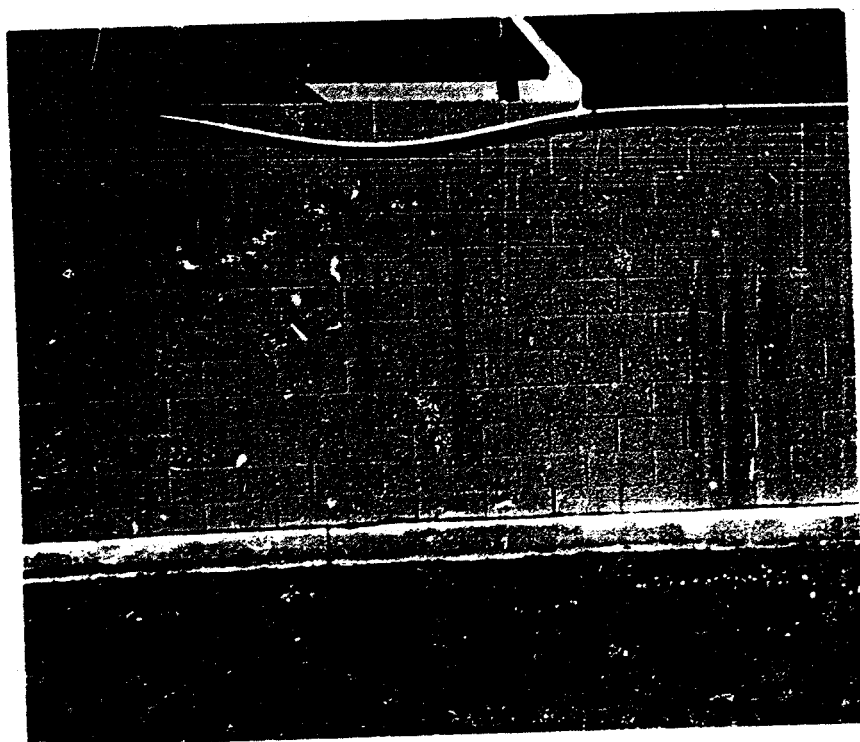
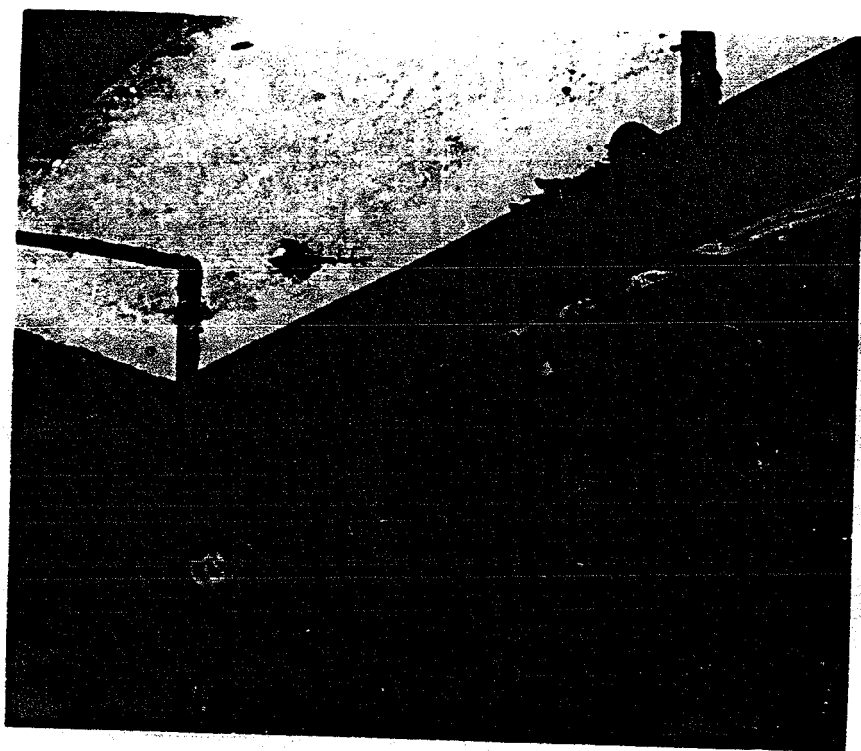
Mrs. Reimke

Some of these photos  
are very offensive and  
obscene.



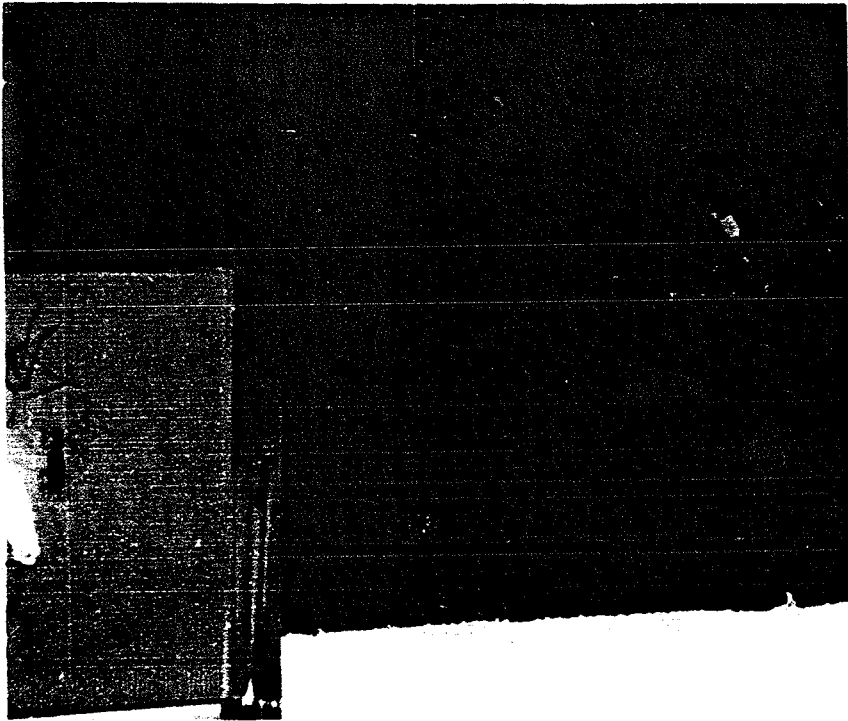


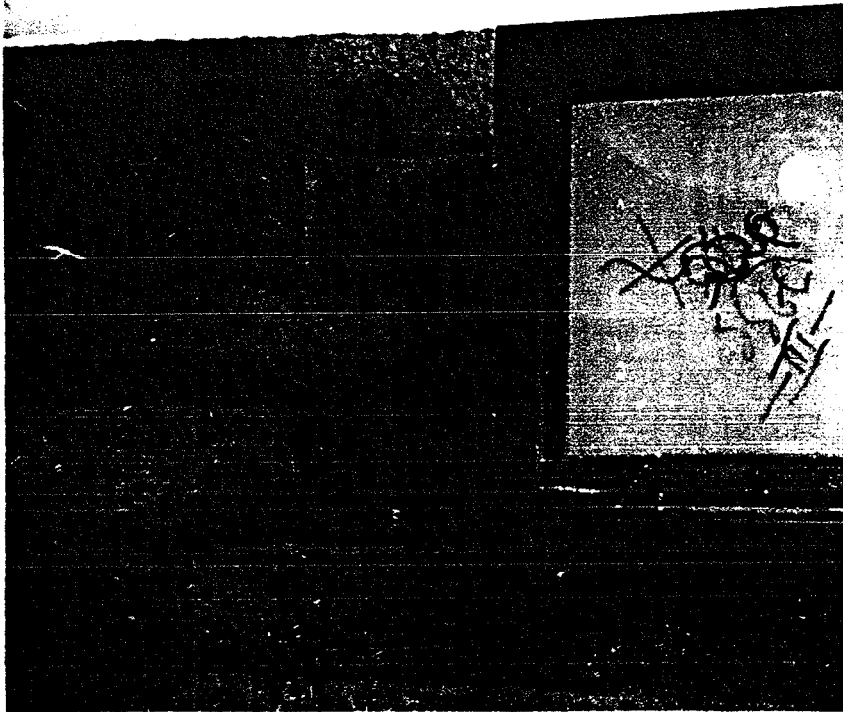


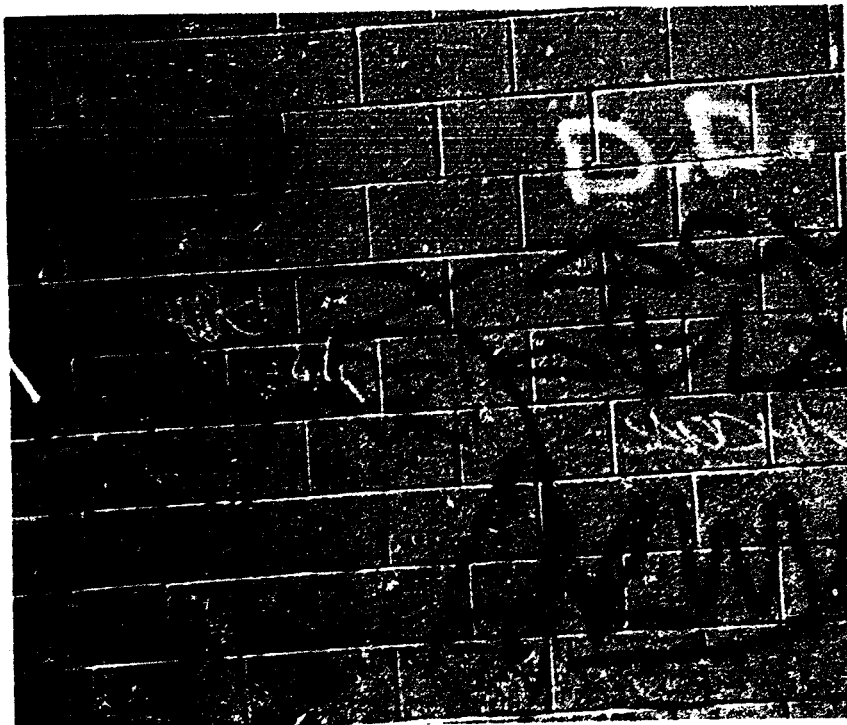


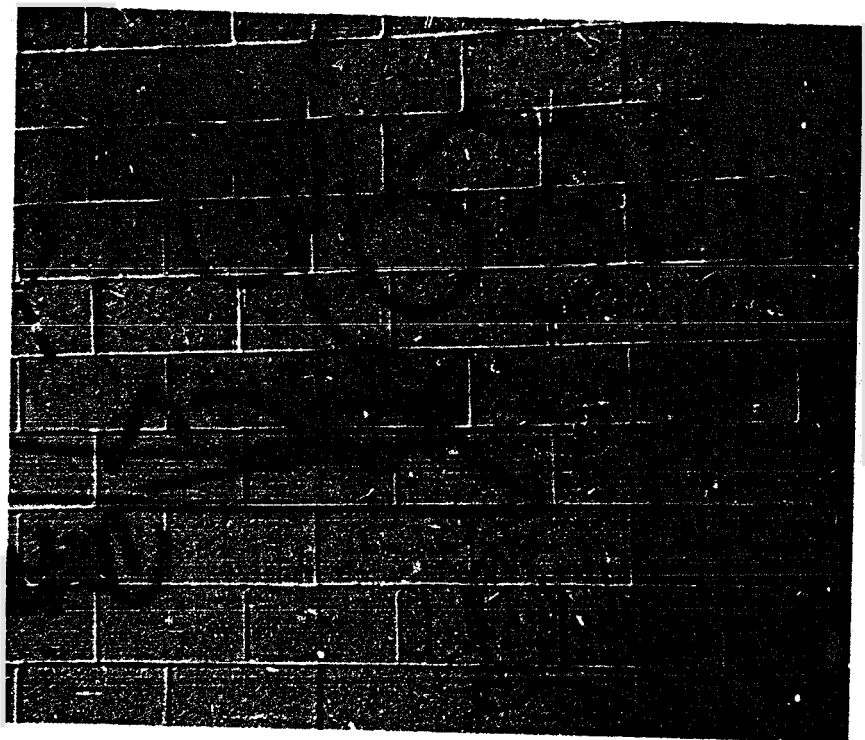


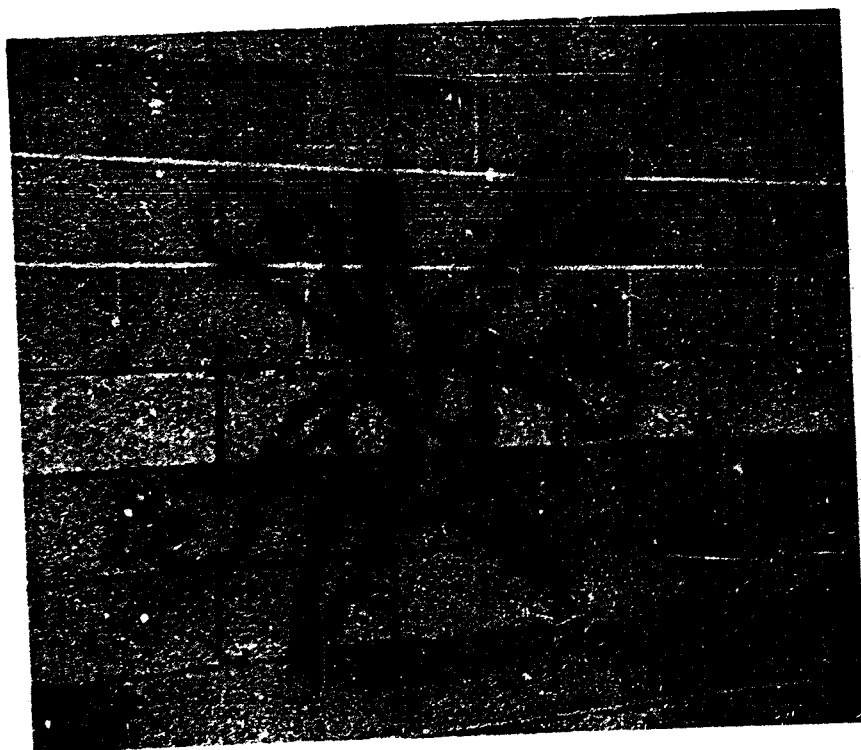
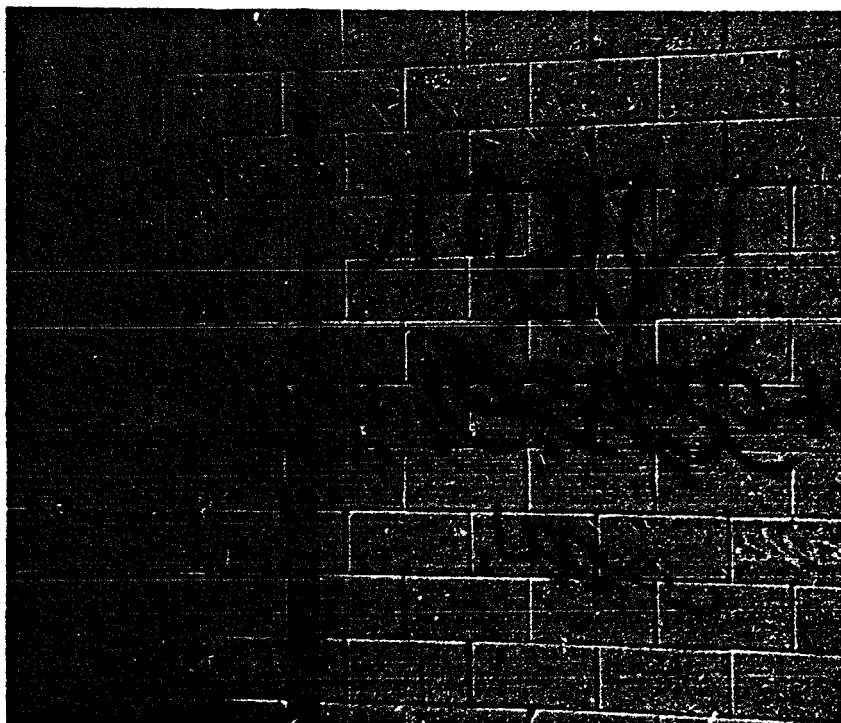


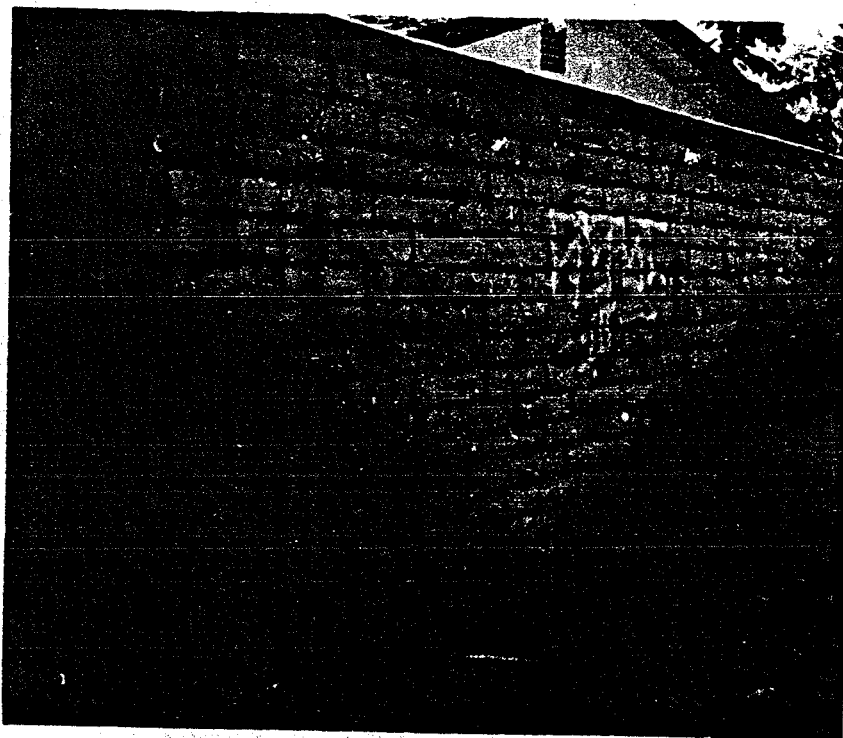


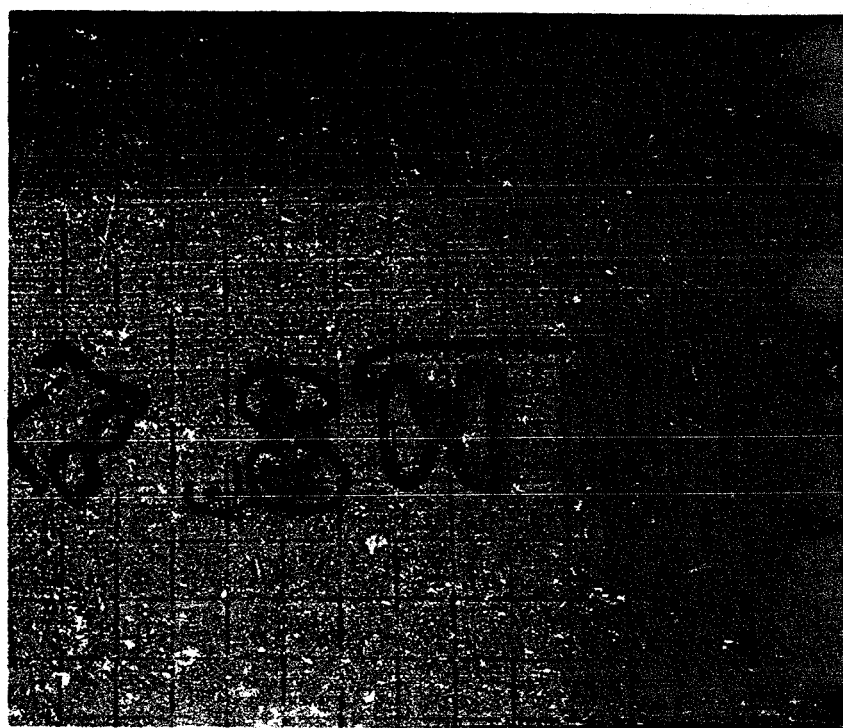












Additional Photo for Isaffite Agenda

Mrs. Reimke



Jack Ronsko  
Public Works Director  
City Hall, 221 W. Pine Street  
Call Box 3006  
Lodi, CA 95341-1910

February 16, 1990

Dear Jock,

Thank you for meeting with Ron Williamson, Frank Pepper and I Thursday noon. It certainly sounds as if progress is underway to clean up English Oaks Commons and I hope I can be of assistance in helping keep it clean.

On the other hand I was very distressed to hear from Ron and Frank about the additional problems they were experiencing. Certainly your film demonstrated that fully. It is clear to me that the problem is much greater than I was aware of. I went over and looked at the walkway from Brandywine to the area behind the stores and it was appalling. I drove through that area Thursday night and there was a patrol car parked there.

I feel that awareness is the key to combatting this problem. Therefore I believe I should proceed to have graffiti as an agenda item for the Council on March 3 and also with the School District on March 6. Moreover, I believe it is absolutely necessary that the police and courts be involved to a much greater extent. If you have any thoughts on my planned course of action please call me. I greatly appreciate your concern and Leadership. I will do everything I can to help you in ANY part of Lodi.

Sincerely,

Arthur B. Price

February 16, 1990

Since I was last before the City Council it has become apparent to me that the majority of the vandalism (graffiti) at English Oak5 Commons has been done by Tokay High students. Several days ago I met with the vice-principals of Tokay High who are responsible for student conduct and attendance. We had a good discussion and I presented them with a List of random recommendations pertaining to the students. To my surprise they endorsed each and every one of these recommendations. They suggested that I present them to the School Board.

They did however present several modifications or additions as follows:

1. Each recommendation should and could be applied to Lodi High.
2. They would like both campuses to be "closed" campuses.
3. They would like increased "moving" police surveillance of the campuses during lunch hours and immediately after school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TO COMBAT GRAFFITI CONNECTED  
TO TOKAY HIGH**

- 1. Closure of the bare ground walkway beginning at the S.E. corner of English Oaks Commons, continuing behind the new school and exiting on Wimbledon Drive.**
- 2. Make it illegal for minors to buy spray paint. (Galt)**
- 3. Make it illegal for anyone to possess paint in parks and playgrounds.**
- 4. Make English Oak Commons "off Limits" to Tokay High students,**
- 5. Assign one Tokay High security guard to English Oak Commons full time during lunch hours.**
- 6. Hire a new full time "graffiti" security guard for Tokay High.**
- 7. Buy an additional motor-bike for use by Tokay High.**
- 8. Require additional police surveillance of Toaky High and the environs especially during lunch hours.**
- 9. Prosecute to the full extent of the law anyone, student or adult, apprehended in acts of vandalism including graffiti.**
- 10. Post a reward at Toaky High & Lodi High schools for arrest and conviction of anyone committing acts of vandalism including graffiti ■**
- 11. Volunteer patrols to watch over Tokay environs especially at noon hours;.**

**\*\*\* Item #7 has already been done.**

My wife and I have lived in Lodi for 11 years and we love it. Little, loveable Lodi. Meetings are to be held beginning January 10th. on the General Plan - one portion of which deals with maintaining and embracing the city's aesthetic appeal. If possible I plan to attend those meetings because they are over looking a factor of vital importance. That is what I would like to address to this council.

We have in our city a virus which could undo all the fine efforts of those responsible for the General Plan and of you members of the Council to keep our city a beautiful and lovely place in which to live. That virus is presently small - and I believe controllable but it is growing and can become virulent if not opposed in an organized and determined manner. That virus is GRAFFITI. And if anyone believes that this virus cannot undo the best of efforts of public and private enterprise to beautify our city, I invite them to take a trip with me to Stockton. Not just South Stockton but the Miracle Mile, the malls and the homes which have walls facing Lower Sacramento Road. I went to the Lodi Police Dept. and asked them what steps they were taking to prevent and eradicate this problem and learned the following:

1. They have no prevention program - no surveillance of any areas
2. They speak at schools and civic groups about property damage in general.
3. They urge property owners to use non-stick paint and paint over graffiti at once.
4. They believe some of it is gang related.
5. They have no idea what the punishment could be if a perpetrator was apprehended.

After I had determined to come before this Council, an article appeared in the December 28th Lodi News Sentinel about actions being taken in Galt which would indicate they're taking a much more serious approach to the problem than Lodi is.

I would like to recommend the following:

That the Council adapt the following as a minimum:

1. Make it illegal to possess spray paint on parks and play grounds.
2. Some police surveillance of areas that are particularly subject to attack.
3. Stiff fines for any person apprehended - and if it is a minor that these fines to apply to the parents.
4. Require any building owner who has permitted his property to be used as an easel for this trash to repaint the afflicted area with "non-stick" paint. - Absentee owners.
5. Provide any neighborhood groups which wishes to eradicate this garbage with permission, technical assistance and supplies to remedy the existing conditions.
6. Use the media, civic groups and any other means to proclaim that this condition will not be tolerated on Lodi.

Remarks of Arthur B. Price to Lodi City Council, January 3, 1990.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Graffiti concern

Editor:

Thank you for your story by Mike Drummond about graffiti. However, I regret that my remarks to the City Council were misinterpreted. My purpose was not to express "fear" but to sound an alarm. Do I "fear" yellow dogs who slink around under cover of darkness? Certainly not. Do I believe that the good citizens of Lodi will surrender their tity to these curs as Stockton has done? Again, emphatically no.

It is very gratifying to know that I am not alone in my concern for this problem. Mr. Jack Ronsko is taking the lead in organizing businesses and citizens to fight this blight while it is still in its infancy. I have called Mr. Ronsko to offer my physical, moral and financial support.

Let it be clear to Judy Kerekes that this defacing of property, public or private is a crime which

carries severe penalties.

I call upon the leaders of our city to lead. The citizen of our city to rally to their support. And the police of our city to enforce our laws.

Arthur B. Price

## Costly car work

Editor:

In the Jan. 10 issue of the Sentinel, there was an article written by Berjat Kerdegari entitled "Manuals keep you on the road." In the article, this person states "a better way is to put your car in the hands of a facility approved by the AM..."

It is apparent that this person has not done his homework very well. Triple A only certifies full service garages and does not certify specialized services, i.e. tire shops, brake shops and muffler shops.

I will further state that many people read the manuals and do

not fully understand them and attempt to fix their own car with devastating results. The outcome is a higher cost when they take the car to a garage to get it fixed.

Andy Stokes.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

RON LURIE

February 22, 1990



Mr. Arthur B. Price  
1053 Port Chelsea Circle  
Lodi, California, 95240

Dear Mr. Price:

I have your letter requesting information on our "Anti-Graffiti Program" that we have in the City of Las Vegas.

This very successful project has been in place approximately eight months and we are satisfied with the results achieved thus far. The City purchased a truck, paint spraying equipment and three different colors of paint. There is a Graffiti Hot Line that the public can call to report locations bearing graffiti.

Through our personal experience, we have found the best way to combat graffiti, for example is to paint-spray on Monday, if the graffiti is back on Tuesday, we paint-spray again on Wednesday and so forth until the message gets through. When the program was first instituted, I forewarned those people who spray graffiti on buildings, fences, etc. that the City had more paint than they did and we would go back as many times as necessary to cover graffiti. As of this time, we have purchased 25 to 30 thousand gallons of paint and have used approximately 200 gallons a week.

Our policy is to spray-paint graffiti free of charge on public buildings and right-of-ways and to charge a small fee to homeowners who call for the service. However, if the homeowner cannot afford a fee, we go ahead and paint out the graffiti free of charge.

I hope you will be able to implement these ideas into an "Anti-Graffiti Program" for your community. You will find, as we did, that your citizenry is 100% behind you and will welcome the opportunity to have public places, fences around private residence restored to their original state. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Ron Lurie  
Mayor of Las Vegas

P.S. One of our local outdoor advertising companies erected a billboard, as a community service, that reads: "Tired of Graffiti? Call the Mayor" and lists the graffiti hotline number! It's been very effective!



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO CA 95829-0001  
(916) 445-7831

31 E CHANNEL STREET  
RM 306  
STOCKTON CA 95202  
(209) 945-7479

# Assembly California Legislature

PATRICK JOHNSTON  
ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT  
REPRESENTING SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

CHAIRMAN

FINANCE AND INSURANCE  
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION  
GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY AND  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
JUDICIARY

January 18, 1990

Arthur Price  
1053 Port Chelsea Circle  
Lodi, CA 95240

Dear Mr. Price:

Thank you for your call in support of anti-graffiti legislation.

You will be pleased to know that I voted in favor of SB 829 and SB 1073, and both bills were chaptered into law. I am enclosing a copy of these measures for your information. SB 823 increases the penalties for acts of graffiti, and SB 1073 allows the courts to require a person convicted of the crime of graffiti to clean up or repair the damaged property.

I appreciate your informing me of your thoughts, and look forward to hearing from you again. Please do not hesitate to contact my office anytime I may be of assistance,

Sincerely,

PATRICK JOHNSTON  
Assemblyman, 26th District

PJ:po

Senate Bill No. 829

CHAPTER 1131

An act to amend Section 640 of, and to add Section 1463.29 to, the Penal Code, and to amend Section 332 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to crimes.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 1989. Filed with Secretary of State September 30, 1989.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 829, Watson. Crimes: graffiti.

Existing law prohibits certain specified unlawful acts, including the writing, spraying, scratching, or otherwise affixing of graffiti, as defined, on or in the facilities or vehicles of a public transportation system, as specified, or in the facilities of, or vehicles operated by, entities subsidized by the Department of Transportation. A violation of any of these provisions is an infraction, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$250 or by prescribed community service not to exceed 20 hours.

This bill, instead, would provide that a violation of any of these provisions is punishable by both such fine and prescribed community service not to exceed 48 hours and that any community service which is required for a violation of any of these offenses by a person under the age of 18 years may be performed in the presence, and under the direct supervision, of the person's parent or legal guardian. The bill also would provide that if a minor is personally unable to pay any fine levied for violating this provision, the parent or legal guardian of the minor would be liable for payment of the fine.

Notice of these provisions relating to the parent or legal guardian would be included also, as specified, in any petition to commence proceedings in a juvenile court to declare a minor a ward or dependent child of the court. Because this provision would result in increasing the duties and responsibilities of local officials, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

In addition, the bill would provide that any fine levied for the affixing of graffiti on or in those facilities or vehicles shall be credited by the county treasurer, as specified, to the public transportation system or entity having jurisdiction over the involved facility or vehicle for removal of the graffiti. Because the bill would impose additional responsibilities on the county treasurer, it would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund, to pay the costs of mandates which do not exceed \$1,000,000



statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

**This bill would** provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

However, the bill **also** would provide that if the commission on State Mandates determines that this bill contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to those statutory procedures and, if the statewide cost does not exceed \$1,000,000, shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 640 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

**640. (a) Any of the following acts** committed on or in the facilities or vehicles of a public transportation system as defined by Section 99211 of the Public Utilities Code, on or in the facilities of or vehicles operated by entities subsidized by, the Department of Transportation is an infraction punishable by a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) and by community service for a total time not to exceed 48 hours over a period not to exceed 30 days, during a time other than during his or her hours of school attendance or employment

(1) Evasion of the payment of the fares of the system.

(2) Misuse of transfers, passes, tickets, or tokens with the intent to evade the payment of fares.

(3) Playing sound equipment on or in system facilities or vehicles.

(4) Smoking, eating, or drinking in or on system facilities or vehicles in those areas where those activities are prohibited by that system.

(5) Expectorating upon system facilities or vehicles.

(6) Willfully disturbing others on or in system facilities or vehicles by engaging in boisterous or unruly behavior.

(7) Writing, spraying, scratching, or otherwise affixing of graffiti on or in system facilities or vehicles. If a minor is personally unable to pay any fine levied for violating this paragraph, the parent or legal guardian of the minor shall be liable for payment of the fine. A court may waive payment of the fine by the parent or legal guardian upon a finding of good cause.

(b) Any fine levied for a violation of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) shall be credited by the county treasurer pursuant to Section 1463.29 to the public transportation system or entity having jurisdiction over the facility or vehicle involved to be used for removal of the graffiti.

Any community service which is required pursuant to subdivision (a) of a person under the age of 15 years may be performed in the presence, and under the direct supervision of the person's parent or legal guardian

(c) As used in this section, **graffiti** means any form of unauthorized painting, writing, or inscription regardless of the content or nature of the material used in the commission of the act.

**SEC. 2.** Section 1463.29 is added to the Penal code, to read:

**1463.29.** Notwithstanding Section 1463, out of the moneys deposited with the county treasurer pursuant to Section 1463, there shall be credited, once a month, to the public transportation system or entity having jurisdiction over facilities or vehicles specified in Section 640, fines levied for violations of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 640 and for the purposes specified in subdivision (b) of that section.

**SEC. 3.** Section 332 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

**332.** A petition to commence proceedings in the juvenile court to declare a minor a **ward** or a dependent child of the court shall be verified and shall contain all of the following:

(a) The name of the court to which it is addressed.

(b) The title of the proceeding.

(c) The code section and the subdivision under which the proceedings are instituted. If it is alleged that the minor is a person described by subdivision (e) of Section 300, the petition shall include an allegation pursuant to that section.

(d) The name, age, and address, if any, of the minor upon whose behalf the petition is brought.

(e) The names and residence addresses, if known to the petitioner, of both parents and any guardian of the minor. If there is no parent or guardian residing within the state, or if his or her place of residence is not known to the petitioner, the petition shall also contain the name and residence address, if known, of any adult relative residing within the county, or, if there is none, the adult relative residing nearest to the location of the court.

(f) A concise statement of facts, separately stated, to support the conclusion that the minor upon whose behalf the petition is being brought is a person within the definition of each of the sections and subdivisions under which the proceedings are being instituted.

(g) The fact that the minor upon whose behalf the petition is brought is detained in custody or is not detained in custody, and if he or she is detained in custody, the date and the precise time the minor was taken into custody.

(h) A notice to the father, mother, spouse, or other person liable for support of the minor child, of all of the following: (1) Section 903 makes that person, the estate of that person, and the estate of the minor child, liable for the cost of the care, support, and maintenance of the minor child in any county institution or any other place in which the child is placed, detained, or committed pursuant to an order of the juvenile court. (2) Section 903.1 makes that person, the estate of that person, and the estate of the minor child, liable for the cost to the county of legal services rendered to the minor or the

parent by a private attorney or a public defender appointed pursuant to the order of the juvenile court; (3) Section 903.2 makes that person, the estate of that person, and the estate of the minor child, liable for the cost to the county of the probation supervision of the minor child by the probation officer pursuant to the order of the juvenile court; and (4) the liabilities established by these sections are joint and several.

(i) If a proceeding is pending against a minor child for a violation of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 640 of the Penal Code, a notice to the parent or legal guardian of the minor that if the minor is found to have violated that provision that (1) any community service which may be required of the minor may be performed in the presence, and under the direct supervision, of the parent or legal guardian pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 640 of the Penal Code; and (2) if the minor is personally unable to pay any fine levied for the violation of paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 640 of the Penal Code, that the parent or legal guardian of the minor shall be liable for payment of the fine pursuant to that paragraph.

**SEC. 4.** No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for those costs which may be incurred by a local agency or school district because this act creates a new crime or infraction, changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, changes the definition of a crime or infraction, or eliminates a crime or infraction.

However, notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide costs of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified in this act, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

**Senate Bill No. 1413**

**CHAPTER 660**

**An act to add section 1410.5 to the Evidence Code, and to amend Section 594 of the Penal Code, relating to crimes.**

[Approved by Governor September 21, 1989. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 1989]

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 1073, C Green. Crimes: vandalism.

(1) Under existing law, upon a showing of authenticity, a writing may be admitted into evidence at a trial.

This bill would provide that for purposes of those provisions, a writing includes any graffiti consisting of written words, insignia, symbols, or any other markings which convey a particular meaning. The bill would also provide that any such writing, or a photograph thereof, may be admitted into evidence in an action for vandalism, for the purpose of proving that the writing was made by the defendant. The bill would specify that the admissibility of any fact offered to prove that the writing was made by the defendant shall, upon motion of the defendant, be ruled upon outside of the presence of the jury and would expressly specify that the admissibility is subject to other specified evidentiary rules.

(2) Existing law provides that any person who is convicted of vandalism shall be punished by imprisonment in state prison or county jail, or by a fine, or by both the fine and imprisonment, as specified.

This bill would provide that upon conviction of any person for acts of vandalism consisting of writing graffiti, the court may, in addition to any punishment imposed under the above provisions, order the defendant to either clean up and repair the damaged property himself or herself, or to pay for someone else to do so.

***The people of the State of California do enact as follows:***

**SECTION 1.** Section 1410.5 is added to the Evidence Code, to read:

**1410.5.** (a) For purposes of this chapter, a writing shall include any graffiti consisting of written words, insignia, symbols, or any other markings which convey a particular meaning.

(b) Any writing described in subdivision (a), or any photograph thereof, may be admitted into evidence in an action for vandalism, for the purpose of proving that the writing was made by the defendant.

(c) The admissibility of any fact offered to prove that the writing was made by the defendant shall, upon motion of the defendant, be

ruled upon outside the presence of the jury, and is subject to the requirements of Sections 1416, 1417, and 1418.

**SEC. 2.** Section 594 of the Penal Code is amended to read:

**594. (a)** Every person who maliciously (1) defaces with paint or any other liquid, (2) damages, or (3) destroys any real or personal property not his or her own, in cases otherwise than those specified by state law, is guilty of vandalism.

**(b) (1)** If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or more, vandalism is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine of not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**(2)** If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or more but less than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), vandalism is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**(3)** If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more but less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), vandalism is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**(4)** If the amount of defacement, damage, or destruction is less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), vandalism is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment.

**(c)** Upon conviction of any person under this section for acts of vandalism consisting of writing graffiti, the court may, in addition to any punishment imposed under subdivision (b), at the victim's option, order the defendant to either clean up and repair the damaged property himself or herself, or to pay for someone else to do so.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**JOHN R. (Randy) SNIDER, Mayor**  
**DAVID M. HINCHMAN**  
Mayor Pro Tempore  
**EVELYN M. OLSON**  
**JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.**  
**FRED M. REID**

**CITY OF LODI**

**CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET**  
**CALL BOX 3006**  
**LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910**  
**(209) 334-5634**  
**TELECOPIER (209) 333-6795**

**THOMAS A. PETERSON**  
City Manager  
**ALICE M. REIMCHE**  
City Clerk  
**BOB McNATT**  
City Attorney

**January 19, 1990**

**Don Lipscomb**  
**Deal City Used Cars**  
**105 E. Pine Street**  
**Lodi, CA 95240**

**SUBJECT: Concern Over Graffiti**


I enjoyed talking with you Wednesday night and I shared your concern about graffiti in Lodi. For your information, the graffiti on the City's new water tank has been removed and that area is now fenced so we should not have a similar problem in the future. I did go by Stockton and Lockeford Streets and witnessed the graffiti on the Southern Pacific controller box and also on the south side of the Finer Things building on Church Street.

We talked about the possibility of Winchester Painting donating paint to volunteers that would want to remove graffiti on private property. I took it upon myself to contact Winchester and they indicated they would like to get involved in this type of project for the good of the community.

I'm also sending you a copy of the Council Minutes of January 3, 1990 where Arthur Price from Port Chelsea Circle was also concerned about graffiti appearing throughout the City. Mr. Price will be receiving a copy of this letter.

If you or Mr. Price are interested in becoming involved as volunteers to keep Lodi from becoming another Stockton, I would like to donate my time as a citizen and a public official to help organize such a crusade. I'm sure that with your help and the help of others in the community, and possibly the Lodi Kiwanis Club, it is possible to stay on top of this problem if we are properly organized. If you or Mr. Price are interested in becoming more involved, please contact me at 333-6709 (work) or 334-1268 (home).

Your interest in the community is appreciated.

  
**Jack L. Ronsko**  
**Public Works Director**

JLR/mt

Enclosure

cc: **Arthur B. Price**  
**Winchester Painting**  
**Mayor Snider**  
**City Manager**  
**Police Chief**  
**Lodi Kiwanis Club**

LLIPSCOM/TXTW.02M

- b) Mayor Snider announced that the next Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission regarding the review of the City of Lodi Draft General Plan will be held Wednesday, January 10, 1990 at 7:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Forum. The focus of discussion for this meeting will be the Land Use and Growth Management Element.
  - c) Mayor Snider reported that he had recently attended a Stockton Planning Commission meeting. The Stockton Planning Commission informed Mayor Snider that they are willing to meet and discuss the area between Eight Mile Road and Armstrong Road. Plans are going forward for this meeting.
  - d) Council Member Pinkerton stated that he had recently read an article indicating that in the future it may be unlawful to have Christmas trees because of the space they take in landfills when they are disposed of.
  - e) Following an inquiry by Council Member Finkerton, City Manager Peterson announced that the subject for discussion at the January 16, 1990 Shirtsleeve Session will be the County Solid Waste Management Program update. Further, the City Manager gave a brief report regarding the subject.
3. The following comments were made under the "Comments by the public on non-agenda items" segment of the agenda:
- a) Mr. Arthur B. Price, 1058 Port Chelsea Circle, Lodi addressed the City Council regarding his concern regarding graffiti which is appearing in various areas throughout the City including parks and playgrounds. Mr. Price volunteered to assist in the cleanup of graffiti at the English Oaks Commons Park.
- Mayor Snider directed that this matter be referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for discussion and recommendation.
- 4. Following the public hearing to consider the appeal of Jesse Valenzuela of an order to abate an unsafe structure at 321 East Pine Street, the City Council ordered the abatement of the subject unsafe structure by repair to bring it up to code and set a deadline of one year for the completion of the necessary work.
  - 5. The City Council concurred with the Mayor's appointment of Lillian L. Goldsmith to the Lodi Senior Citizens Commission, which term will expire December 31, 1993.
  - 6. The City Council received two letters regarding retaining the natural status of the undeveloped area of the Mokelumne River between Woodbridge and Highway 99.

Mayor Snider indicated that this concern will be addressed when the Open Space Element of the Lodi General Plan is reviewed.

# Lodi combats spreading graffiti

**By MICHAEL DRUMMOND**  
*News-Sentinel staff writer*

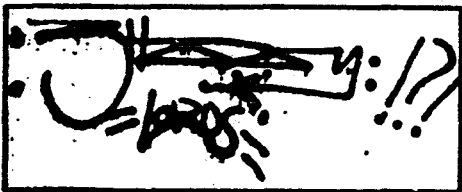
Lodi is not Los Angeles. But the two cities share something in common — graffiti.

Although Lodi is not as graffiti-ridden as the City of Angels, locals have been noticing a disturbing increase of writing on the walls.

"I've seen a noticeable increase (of graffiti)," said Lodian Arthur Price, who lives adjacent to English Oaks Commons Park at the south end of town. "If you start to see a proliferation of this stuff, there's a little bit of fear."

The fear is that graffiti in Lodi is going to get worse before it gets better.

At the Lucky shopping center at the corner of Cottleman Lane and Church Street, the word



"Crips" — the name of an infamous LA gang — is spelled in cryptic crayon lettering on one wall. At English Oaks park, several stylized "SSGC" insignia dot the partition separating the park from residences.

No one in Lodi believes the town will be overrun by youth gangs in the near future. But the presence of this and other types of graffiti

has moved city leaders and citizens to action.

Lodi Public Works Director Jack Ronsko is working with citizens and businesses in the area to combat graffiti with the stated goal "to keep Lodi from becoming another Stockton."

Stockton, as many know, is rife with graffiti.

Ronsko has enlisted the help of J.L. Winchester Paint Store. The owners of the store have agreed to donate paint to volunteers who want to remove graffiti from private property.

Ken King, brother-in-law of the Winchesters, said the store will donate "a gallon here and a gallon there" as needed.

King said the paint store wanted to join in the fight because the owners have seen an in-

(Continued on Back Page)

# Bush concerned for Gorbachev

**By LEO KENNERT**  
*McClatchy News Service*

WASHINGTON — President Bush, voicing concern about Mikhail Gorbachev's mounting problems, said Wednesday he doesn't "really know" whether the Soviet leader will survive a rising tide of ethnic conflicts and secessionist movements, but hopes he can.

In the Baltics and in Azerbaijan, Gorbachev is "far from an internal problem of enormous dimensions," Bush told a televised news conference. "It is serious. But I hope that he not only survives but stays strong."

The president said Gorbachev's ability to remain in office "is in our interest" because the West has a major stake in his political and economic reforms. Bush praised Gorbachev for his advocacy of peaceful changes in Eastern

Europe and within the Soviet Union.

But he declined to pass judgment on whether Gorbachev has begun using excessive force in cracking down on rebellious forces in Azerbaijan, where the State Department reported a death toll of 170 since fierce attacks on Armenians and Moscow's authority began 12 days ago.

"Any time you have a use of force and the loss of life, we are concerned," said Bush. "But I don't believe I can judge that question right now."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gennady Gerasimov announced Wednesday Gorbachev would not allow dissident republics to break away from the Soviet Union.

Although the Azerbaijani capital of 1.8 million people, fifth largest city in the Soviet Union, was still

not pacified, Soviet forces slicing south completely sealed the 500-mile border with Iran.

A senior White House official said intelligence reports from Moscow show "no evidence of any political challenge to Gorbachev" and the administration continues to believe that his current difficulties will have "no effect" on a planned superpower summit in Washington in June. Bush has been pushing for major arms-control agreements at the summit.

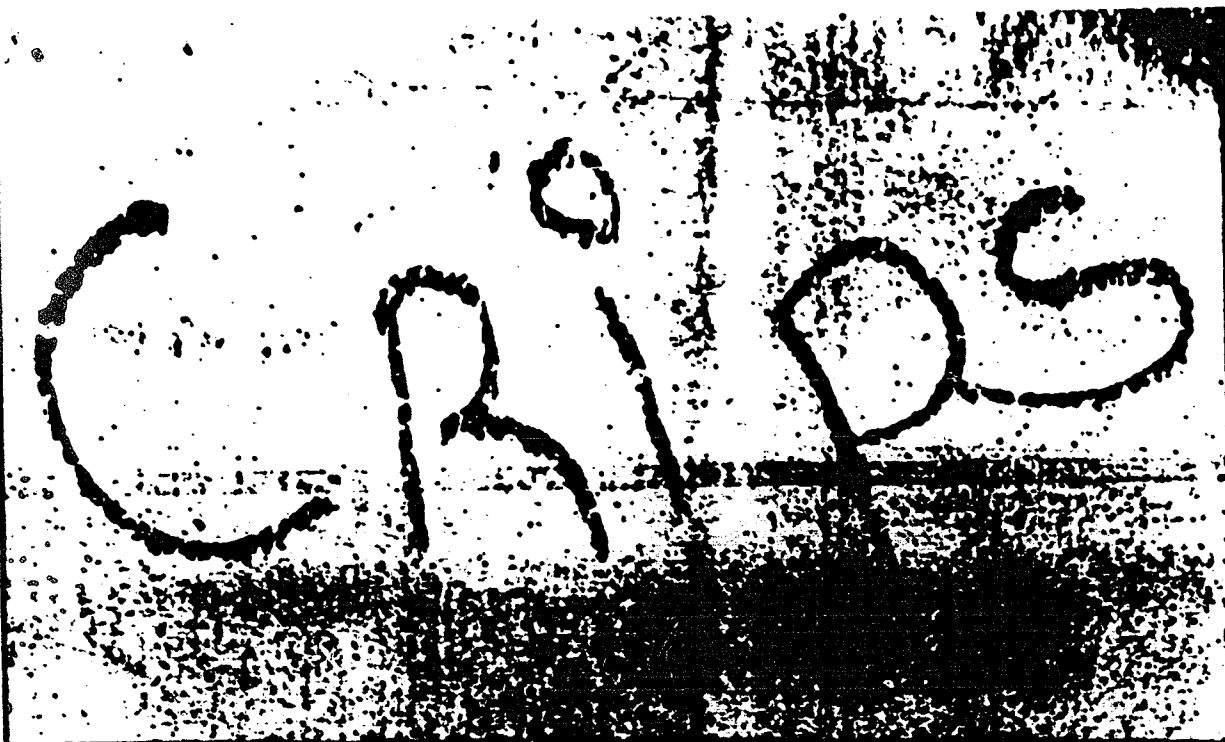
In a clear effort to help Gorbachev, the president said that while the United States doesn't recognize the Baltic countries as part of the Soviet Union, his paramount objective is to support Gorbachev's policies of "peaceful" change in handling demands for independence.

"In looking at the Soviet scene

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Mike Drummond

The Lucky shopping center at Kettleman Lane has "Crips" spelled in cryptic crayon on its wall.

## Graffiti

(Continued from Page One)  
crease of graffiti in Lodi.

"You betcha, it's all over town," King said. "The best thing to do would be to remove spray paint from the market, but you can't do that."

A policy regarding graffiti on public buildings is another issue. But there is "nothing on the drawing boards" as far as a city-wide, anti-graffiti ordinance is concerned, said Lodi City Manager Tom Peterson.

"We don't have any (anti-graffiti ordinances) right now," said Lodi City Attorney Bob McNatt. "We operate under state laws."

The City of Galt last year passed a far-reaching anti-graffiti ordinance, which bars the possession of spray paint cans in public parks, and requires private property owners to clean or paint over graf-

fiti on their buildings within 30 days.

If owners neglect to remove the graffiti, the city will do it for them and place a lien on the property until they pay the city back.

McNatt and others questioned the legality of such stipulations.

David Schmidt, an economic developer with the City of Stockton, said "If the graffiti is on private property, the city can't clean it off."

Schmidt said such action would constitute a "gift" from the city to a property owner and "government code says you can't make gifts to the private sector."

Stockton is working on its own graffiti ordinance, Schmidt said, which will require the removal of graffiti on public buildings within five working days.

Despite the fact graffiti can drive down property values and often is unsightly, some area residents

take a relaxed view of the problem.

Julie Kerekes, who lives near English Oaks, said sometimes graffiti can be an art form.

"It'd be nice if they did really neat murals," Kerekes said. "Yeah, really neat pictures or a mural — stuff like that wouldn't bother me."

University of the Pacific sociology professor John Phillips said a city will never be able to completely rid itself of graffiti. Graffiti, said Phillips, is almost as old as the human race.

"If you go back to the Stone Age people there's been graffiti," he said.

However, one way to combat the problem is to remove graffiti as soon as it appears, according to Phillips.

"If you own property it's smart to get rid of (graffiti) immediately," he said, "before it becomes a message board."

# Graffiti fight never stops

2/18/89

By KEN HANSON

News-Sentinel staff writer

**GALT** — Vandals have laid down their paint cans in recent months. But no one is bidding farewell to graffiti.

The lull follows efforts last winter by the City Council to control graffiti tagging by making it illegal for minors to buy spray paint and for anyone to possess paint in parks and playgrounds.

The council also is requiring developers to use "anti-graffiti" materials on walls.

Galt, along with other California cities, might get help soon from the state in the fight against graffiti. In its last session, the Legislature considered a bill introduced by Sen. Quentin Kopp of San Francisco that would penalize people ages 13 to 21 who are caught defacing property with paint or other substances by having their driver's license suspended or delayed a year.

The bill was passed by the Senate but died in the Assembly. A similar bill will be introduced in the next session, said Jay Berwick, director of the Los Angeles-based Graffiti Information Network.

Cities across the country are redoubling their efforts to battle

graffiti, Berwick said. Municipalities are spending a total of \$2 billion to \$3 billion in the fight. (The total spray paint industry, he added, is worth only \$1/2 billion.)

In Los Angeles County alone, cities and school districts are spending \$100 million each year, he said. In New York City, the transit authority this year is spending \$5 billion to make its subways graffiti-proof — much of the money going to convert its subway trains to stainless steel.

A large chunk of this money is being spent on the latest trend in graffiti combat — "anti-graffiti" paint.

More than 150 anti-graffiti coatings exist, produced by about 10 companies. There are also 150 kinds of other graffiti-resistant building materials, and there are 200 graffiti removers, he said.

Anti-graffiti paints that are non-toxic have entered the market following the London subway fire in April from which 23 people were killed when they inhaled cyanide fumes given off by anti-graffiti paint. Some of the victims could have survived if not for the cyanide fumes, authorities reported.

(Continued on Back Page)

## Lincoln proposes thrift revamp

**FI** — Assemblymembers and Bob Epple, vowing to of the Lincoln Savings and proposed Wednesday a go to tighten regulation of in California.

Californians invested mild uninsured securities Savings and Loan," Epple the promise of a high rate e familiarity of buying at gs branch, they invested lost what for a number of b's savings."

hors seized control of Lincoln's parent company, ental Corp., has been sued who say they were misled ased more than \$200 mil- ay's bonds. American Con- for bankruptcy protection, s make those bonds wor-

ews conference outside a

Lincoln branch in Downey, a suburb 15 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles, said many of the bond sales were made by Lincoln employees acting as salespeople for American Continental at 29 Lincoln branches in Southern California.

"Most customers at Lincoln did not know the difference between a certificate of deposit and a junk bond," said Johnston, chairman of the Assembly's finance and insurance panel.

Epple's and Johnston's five-point reform package includes a proposal that would forbid financial institutions, their parent companies or affiliates from offering securities unless they are insured.

Epple, a Democrat from Norwalk, said he will also propose requiring regulators to inform other federal and state authorities of any proposed or actual enforcement actions. Additionally, his package is designed to encourage sharing of information among regulators.

(Continued on Back Page)

# Graffiti

(Continued from Page One)

Some municipalities, such as Elk Grove, Half-Moon Bay and Garden Grove, however, are drawing on volunteers to fight the battle.

In Elk Grove, a sound wall near the entrance to the city was being spray-painted. In response, members of the Chamber of Commerce banded together to keep watch and cover within hours any new graffiti.

The graffiti stopped coming in about a month, said Myrna Sparks, manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

In Lodi, members of the Parks and Recreation Department carry cans of paint in their vehicles to cover graffiti as soon as it appears.

"It's not much fun (for vandals) to put up graffiti if it's gone by noon the next day," said City Man-

ager Tom Peterson.

About 18 months ago, a rash of graffiti in south Sacramento County brought officials to investigate. Graffiti-expert Beswick, who is also an expert in gang activities, said some graffiti in Sacramento was gang-related, but most in the Elk Grove and Galt areas wasn't.

Some of the graffiti in Sacramento resulted from the migration of gangs from Los Angeles during a police clean-up operation against them, he said.

Beswick said he favors punishment against graffiti "artists" and disagrees with cities who think providing space for graffiti will solve the problem.

Such a strategy is being attempted in Merced along a bicycle path. But this kind of strategy has been tried unsuccessfully in larger cit-

ies, he said.

"When it hasn't worked in Denver or Chicago or New York or Philadelphia, it's not going to work in Merced," Beswick said.

Vandals paint graffiti for two reasons: for expression, and to get away with it, Beswick said. "A legal (graffiti) wall only fulfills half of what they desire."

But some are skeptical about whether any solution will work. Stockton developer Ni Orsi, who is involved with developments in Galt, said his buildings on Pacific Avenue in Stockton get hit with paint regardless of his efforts, and anti-graffiti paint he's used hasn't helped.

He said he lives by this principle: Eight Feet and Under.

"Anything under eight feet will get graffitied," he said.

# Tolerance

(Continued from Page One)

# Isenberg tackles teen vandals

By Stephen Archer  
Independent News Wire

SACRAMENTO — Lodi-area Assemblymember Phil Isenberg has taken on teen vandals, according to an analysis of a new piece of legislation he has introduced.

Isenberg, under a Friday deadline to author legislation for 1990, introduced approximately three pieces of legislation during the month of February, including a measure designed to reduce vandalism by juveniles.

Isenberg said the idea for AB 3406 was brought to his attention by Sacramento District Attorney Steve White, who said acts of vandalism were on the rise.

AB 3406 would allow the courts the option of taking away a person's driver's license for one year — or until damages had been paid — if

convicted of vandalism and a motor vehicle was involved. If the person convicted does not have a license, then the court could tell the Department of Motor Vehicles to delay issuing one for one year.

"There are a large number of vandalism violations committed by juveniles and there is only so much the courts can do," said Isenberg Wednesday when asked about his new legislation.

"I think the loss of a driver's license or the threat of the loss will

be a deterrent," he added.

Another Isenberg bill, AB 3204, is — according to Isenberg — an amendment to the Police Officer's Bill of Rights, a set of due process procedures followed when a law enforcement officer is under investigation.

The amendment, said Isenberg, adds a statute of limitations for filing a complaint or action against a law enforcement officer.

The measure was brought to Isenberg by the Peace Officer's Research Association of California.

San Joaquin County And Galt Area Residents Only

WIN CASH AWARDS

Lodi Spring Wine Show